

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03

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DRAFTED BY EUS/SE:RCEWING:LLL

APPROVED BY EUR:NCLEDSKY

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R 012156Z DEC 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 293088

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR

SUBJECT: AEGEAN AIR SPACE TALKS; TURKISH REACTION

1. TURKISH EMBASSY COUNSELOR PELIT BRIEFED DEPARTMENT (EUR/SE) OFFICER NOVEMBER 30 ON TURKISH REACTION TO PARIS TALKS ON AEGEAN AIR SPACE. OTHER THAN DECISION REOPEN ESKISEHIR-LARISSA TELEPHONE LINK BETWEEN TACTICAL AIR FORCE COMMANDERS, TURK EMBOFF SAID THAT GOT HAD BEEN DIS-APPOINTED WITH RESULTS. HE NOTED DEADLOCK EXISTED ON SEVERAL KEY ISSUES. PELIT SAID TURKEY WAS STILL INTERESTED IN DIRECT NEGOTIATION WITH GREECE ON FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION (FIR) PROBLEM, BUT NO DATE OR PLACE HAD BEEN AGREED FOR NEXT SESSION, ALTHOUGH MATTER MIGHT BE CONSIDERED AT BITSIOS-CAGLAYANGIL MEETING IN BRUSSELS NEXT WEEK.

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2. PELIT DESCRIBED FOLLOWING AS OUTSTANDING ISSUES AT END OF PARIS ROUND.

A. LOCATION OF SENSITIVE ZONE WITHIN WHICH INFORMATION ON MILITARY FLIGHTS (IN EXCESS OF SOME MINIMUM SPECIFIED NUMBER) WOULD BE EXCHANGED. GREECE HAD BEEN RIGID IN ITS POSITION THAT EASTERN BOUNDARY OF ZONE SHOULD BE 24 MILES EAST OF GREEK ISLANDS OFF TURKISH COAST AND THAT WESTERN BOUNDARY SHOULD BE 36 MILES EAST OF TURKISH COAST. PELIT POINTED OUT THAT CONSIDERABLE AREA OF TURKISH MAIN-

LAND WOULD THUS BE INCLUDED WITHIN ZONE AND SAID THAT TURKEY INSISTS THAT EQUAL TERRITORY FROM EACH SIDE BE ENCOMPASSED WITHIN SENSITIVE ZONE. HE ALSO SAID SOME SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT SHOULD BE MADE, PARTICULARLY IN LESBOS AREA, TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF LOCAL AIR OPERATIONS FROM TURKISH AFBS NEAR COAST.

B. SINCE TURKISH RADAR UNABLE DISTINGUISH BETWEEN CIVIL AND MILITARY AIRCRAFT, TURKS FEEL THAT CIVIL AIRCRAFT ACTIVITY WITHIN SENSITIVE ZONE SHOULD ALSO BE SUBJECT TO INFORMATION EXCHANGE, PARTICULARLY IN LESBOS-RHODES AREAS. GREEKS REJECTED THIS POSITION.

C. AT LAST MINUTE GREEK NEGOTIATOR IN PARIS WAS ADAMANT THAT CLAUSE RESERVING EXISTING FIR RIGHTS SHOULD FORM INTEGRAL PART OF ANY GREEK-TURKISH AIR SPACE AGREEMENT DESPITE EARLIER INDICATION FROM GREEKS THAT A UNILATERAL DECLARATION OR STATEMENT RESERVING RIGHTS WOULD BE ADEQUATE MEANS TO SET FORTH THEIR POSITION. LATTER WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO TURKEY. FOLLOWING IS GREEK LANGUAGE FOR CLAUSE AS PROVIDED BY PELIT:

QUOTE ANY CLAUSE OF PRESENT SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT CAN IN NO WAY BE INTERPRETED AS GIVING TO GREECE AND TURKEY THE RIGHT OF EXERCIZING AIR POLICING WITHIN THE AREA OF THE OTHER FIR
-OR TO ANY AIRCRAFT TO CROSS THE EXISTING FIR
BOUNDARIES WITHOUT COMPLYING WITH THE RELEVANT ICAO PROVISIONS
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-OR AS SUBSTITUTING THE GREEK OR TURKISH SERVICES WHATSOEVER HAVING THE EXCLUSIVE RESPONSIBILITY OF CONTROL IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIR AREA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ICAO RULES AND PROCEDURES IN FORCE. UNQUOTE

3. DEPT OFFICER THANKED PELIT FOR BRIEFING, REITERATED CONTINUED US BELIEF THAT AEGEAN ISSUES SHOULD BE RESOLVED THROUGH PROCESS OF DIRECT NEGOTIATION BETWEEN GREECE AND

TURKEY, AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT AIR SPACE DISCUSSIONS
COULD RESUME AT EARLY DATE. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, AVIATION AGREEMENTS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE293088
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RCEWING:LLL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760447-0541
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761281/aaaacsqk.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AEGEAN AIR SPACE TALKS; TURKISH REACTION
TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR
To: ANKARA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006